The transit and storage losses for 1990-91 will be available after the accounts of FCI for 1990-91 are audited and finalised.

(b) The Corporation has taken a number of steps to reduce storage and transit losses. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are:—

(i) Strict enforcement of quality specifications relating to moisture during procurement of foodgrains;

(ii) Reduction in the quantum of foodgrains filled in each bag;

(iii) Installation of weigh-bridges in depots having capacity of 5000 tonnes or more;

(iv) Minimising the use of open wagons;

(v) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stock verification etc.

(vi) Augmentation of covered storage capacity;

(vii) Encouraging machine stitching of bags.

Encouragement for use of aluminium

*274. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging use of aluminium to replace steel, wood and the like;

(b) what steps have been taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Government are encouraging the use of aluminium to replace wood and metals like copper and *tin.*

(b) With a view to promote the use of aluminium, the following steps have been taken:

(i) exemption from excise duty for aluminium door/window frames and kitchenware items;

(ii) promoting use of aluminium furnitures by initiating fabrication of prototypes of school and office furnitures through National Institute of Designs;

(iii) dissemination of information and creating awareness regarding advantages of using aluminium by sponsoring working group discussions, seminars and exhibitions.

(c) The above steps were accelerated after the country became self-sufficient in aluminium. In recent years the pattern of demand has shown a relative shift from electrical sector to other uses.

दिल्ली–मुरादाबाद रेल लाइन का विद्युतीकरण तथा उसे दोहरा किया जाना

*275. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मोम अफजल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हापुड़ से होकर जाने वाली दिल्ली-मुरादाबाद बड़ी रेल लाइन को दोहरा किए जाने और उसका विद्युतीकरण किए जाने संबंधी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस योजना को कब तक पूरा करने का विचार रखती है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी०के० जाफर शरीफ) : (क) दिल्ली-गाजियाबाद खंड का पहले ही विद्युतीकरण हो चुका है तथा इस खंड पर लाइन भी दोहरी बिछी हुई है। हापुड़ के रास्ते गाजियाबाद से आगे मुरादाबाद तक दोहरी लाइन बिछाने या विद्युतीकरण करने का फिलहाल कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।